THE CATHEDRAL AT ANTIGUA.

THIS building, dedicated to St. John, and which was designed to withstand the hurricanes and earthquakes so prevalent in the West Indies, is placed upon the site of the old cathedral, which was destroyed by the earthquake in February, 1848. The corner-stone of the new building was laid October 10th, 1845, and the first sermon preached in it on exactly that day twelvemonth; but the towers and exterior were not entirely completed and service permanently commenced until August, 1847;—the whole building being completed in two years, at a cost of 36,000*l.*, from the designs of Mr. Thomas Fuller, architect.

There was not any contractor, but the men were paid, and the building works carried out, by Mr. W. Roue, of Bristol, who, by the efficient manner in which he performed the whole of his arduous duties, his general abilities, and conduct, gave the greatest satisfaction to the architect and all parties concerned. There were a few English workmen sent out, but the greater portion of the work was performed by the natives.

The plan is cruciform, with two square towers at the west end, finished with octagonal cupolas; at the east end is a semi-octagonal apse; the building accommodates 2,200 persons, the extreme length being 160 feet, the breadth 53 feet 9 inches; the depth of each transept 26 feet, the breadth 47 feet 6 inches. It is divided into nave and aisles by octagonal columns, having moulded caps and bases and an enriched entablature running throughout, with semi-elliptical arches between the columns, moulded archivolts, corbels, and keys. The ceiling over the nave is coved and panelled, and that over the aisles flat and panelled; the whole of the roof is carried on a strong framework of hard wood, quite independent of the stone walls. The roof is of pitch pine, and the whole of the interior is lined with pitch pine (not painted), obtained from America, all timbers being cut there to the sizes required, and the boarding ready planed, grooved, and feathered.

The walls are built of magnesian limestone, of very fine quality, which was obtained from the north side of the island; the floors of the aisles were laid with sanded blue lias stone, the space underneath being used as cold air flues. The floor of the chancel is of polished lias, which, together with that used in the aisles, was obtained from Mr. Treasure, of Bath. The windows are filled in with thick glass in large panes, supplied by Messrs. Dix and Williams, of Bristol. The three east windows were made in England, filled with stained glass, by Mr. Willement, of London.

The roofs were covered with the patent galvanised tinned iron tiles, by Messrs. Morewood and Rogers, of Upper Thames-street, London, who sent out a person to superintend the fixing. This description of roofing is stated to be peculiarly adapted for the situation, on account of its being readily fixed by inexperienced workmen, and from its not being liable to be disturbed by the hurricanes which occasionally visit these islands.*

The pulpit, reading-desk, bishop's throne, and stalls, were made of mahogany, carved in Bristol; the font was also sent out from Bristol. The building, which is approached by bold flights of steps, with balustrades, &c., stands on an elevated situation, commanding a view of the town and bay; it was severely tested in the late hurricane, but the only damage of importance sustained was to the stained-glass windows at the east end, and to the vane of one of the towers. Several buildings in the country and some of the other churches were severely damaged or destroyed.

It is due to the architect to state that the *style* of the building was determined by the Committee.

The organ was sent out by Mr. Walker, of London.

THE LIFE ACADEMY in Margaret-street, Regent-street, held a *conversazione* on the 11th inst., and exhibited some interesting works.

* We are told that in a hurricane which occurred on the island last year, and which carried away the roofs of from 1,000 to 1,200 houses, those that were covered with this material were not disturbed.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

THE Wesleyans are collecting funds for the erection of a new chapel at Luton.——Rolling mills are to be erected at Woolwich Dockyard, where stringent measures of economy are being carried out. Old wrought iron is to be used up in place of being sold for a trifle as heretofore, so that many thousands of pounds, it is expected, will even thus alone be saved. A set of machines for turning treenails is to be substituted for hand work, and in the blacksmiths' department the men are to be put to their mettle in shape of piece-work. Pity many sinecure pensioners, as well as poor men, were not put on *piece-work*, by "no work no pay" being made the general order of the day. The Customs landing-waiters, are now again being bled, and by the way, for behoof of the sinecurists,—to save whom seems to be the grand end and aim of the saving system at all times.——The Southampton Board of Waterworks lately secured a "cheap contract for iron pipe," regarding which they have just received a letter from Bury College Iron-works, in which Messrs. Rayne and Barns state their regret at having made a great mistake in their calculation for the supply of the pipes, by taking yards as feet, and thus making 100*l.* difference. They would execute the order, and throw themselves on the generosity of the commissioners. Several of these, however, thought that it would not be just to the other parties who had tendered to give any compensation for such a mistake,—but for which the accepted tender would have been very considerably higher than the rest. The letter, meantime, was referred to the general committee.——The wardens of St. Martin's, Birmingham, are directing their attention to the state of the fabric of the old church, and will shortly be prepared with a definite plan for the consideration of the parishioners, ascertaining which of the courses that are open to them will be most likely to secure approbation and co-operation. "It is evident," says the local *Journal*, "that there is a strong feeling in the minds of many in favour of an entirely new edifice."——The Odd Fellows' Hall, Temple-street, Birmingham, was opened on Monday week. It has been erected by Messrs. Branston and Gwyther, after designs by Messrs. Coe and Goodwin. The building presents externally a plain appearance. On the second floor, and occupying nearly the whole area of the building, is the principal hall, which is lighted from the roof, and will contain about 1,000 persons. A gallery extends along the hall over the entrance. The whole will cost nearly 3,000*l.*——St. Michael's Church, Worcester, has been recently 'beautified' by the erection of tablets, with the commandments illuminated on zinc plates, in moulded oak frames, placed on each side of the east window. Work executed by Mr. G. Rogers, of Worcester, who has also recently executed some stained glass for windows in Thornbury Church, Gloucestershire.——The foundation-stone of St. Paul's, Charlestown, parish of St. Anstell, was laid on Tuesday week. The style of the building is Early English, with tower and spire rising to 70 feet in height. The plan is cruciform, with nave, north and south aisles, and transepts, with north porch. The nave will be lit by a clerestory. The walls are to be of blue slate stone with granite quoins, plinth, water tables, jambs, &c. The interior dimensions will be 100 feet from east to west, and 42 feet from north to south; height of nave 34 feet, separated from transepts and chancel by arches 28 feet in height; chancel, 25 feet in depth, ascended by three steps. The roofs are open, with collars and arch ribs springing from circular engaged shafts and capitals between the windows of the clerestory. The vestry is on the north side of the chancel. All the woodwork is to be stained in oak; accommodation on floor for 570, all free. The amount necessary for completion is, we understand, far from being fully guaranteed by subscriptions.—— Several architects having complained that the time allowed for plans for the Leicester new workhouse to be sent in was too limited, the clerk was requested to write to the commissioners for an extension of time for three weeks. During this discussion, Mr. Woodward suggested that the guardians should apply for an extension of the period to the last day of Hilary Term; but it was thought that they might as well apply at once to have the question adjourned for other six months.—— It is proposed to lay down a glass culvert for the main sewers of Rugby. This has been recommended on account of economy (?) and smoothness of surface in the glass.——The Manchester Waterworks Committee report "that about 10th September last the committee received tenders from forty different parties for the construction of the Godley service reservoir, from forty-three parties for the construction of the Denton reservoirs, and from thirty-one parties for the masonry work connected with the Broomstairs-bridge; and on 15th accepted the three several tenders sent in by Mr. David Bellhouse, of Manchester, for the execution of the three works. The committee have arranged for the purchase of all the land required, and been enabled to give possession to the contractors. The prices to be paid for the land have been arranged without arbitrators or a jury, except in the case of the trustees of Lord Wilson: price asked 16,289*l.* 3s. 4d., offered 4,000*l.*, awarded 5,941*l.* 6s.; and of land belonging to Mr. Wrigley: verdict by consent 2,975*l.*, amount asked 3,820*l.* 10s., offered 2,720*l.* The Woodhead contractors have already nearly repaired the damage from floods at their own expense. About 1,892 tons of pipes have been got ready. They are dipped before being laid down, as they are proposed to be first at Hulme, Charlton-on-Medlock, and Ardwick. The report of Mr. Bateman, the engineer, showed that the works under seven different contracts are now going on steadily and satisfactorily.—— The parish church of Kirk Deighton, Yorkshire, has been lately repewed. Improvement has been made in the internal and external appearance of this venerable building by the removal of windows that did not correspond with the style, and by replacing them with suitable windows. This work has been accomplished through the exertions and liberality of the rector, the Rev. James William Geldart, LL.D. The church was re-opened on 20th ult.——In Aberdeen the streets are swept every day, at an annual cost of 1,000*l.*, and the refuse brings in 2,000*l.* a-year. In Perth the scavenging cost 1,300*l.* per annum, and the manure sells for 1,730*l.* ——The new building erected at Reading, during the present year, for the use of the savings bank, was opened on the 11th instant. It is in the Italian style, and consists of a spacious bank office, board-room, waiting-room, strong-room, &c., with a porter's residence. The contract was undertaken at the estimate of the architect, Mr. Jno. Billing.

SUCCESS TO THE GAS MOVEMENT.

PETITIONS from the City gas consumers having been presented in showers to the City Sewers Commissioners, in favour of the Great Central Gas Consumers' Company, the commission have seen the propriety of resolving, by a majority of 35 to 11, to allow that company to lay their pipes throughout the City. This, too, the commission has felt impelled to do, although the old City companies, in order to burke the new, had previously announced their resolution to reduce their own price to 4s.—the maximum to which the new will be limited. The old companies even bound themselves in honour to continue the reduced price named, whether the new should now realise its intentions or not. It was somewhat amusing, however, to note the curious struggle of their advocates, on the one hand, to cast discredit on those estimates of their opponents on which the idea of the possibility of selling the article at 4s. at all was founded, while they themselves, at the very same moment, were offering it at that very price, and broadly hinting at the possibility of still further reductions. Nevertheless, previous to March last, they had insisted that it was perfectly impossible to sell it at less than 6s., to which they had shortly before reduced it from 7s., a price that had also been declared to be the lowest possible. It has been stoutly insisted, too, that the quality of the gas will be deteriorated in consequence of such reductions. Now, we will undertake very easily to show that it *must*, on the contrary, *be improved* in purity, even to the utmost, in consequence of these, and such as these, very reductions. The manufacturers, old and new, will soon find that increased con-

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